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SECRET WARS II
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Beyond time, space, and the myriad dimensions lies another universe to which our own is as a droplet of water to the ocean. The One Who Is All in that other universe has learned of our universe and has come here to walk among us, that he might come to understand the essence of humanity.

The fragile Earth trembles beneath his feet, dreading his godlike omnipotence.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SECRET WARS™ II

LOVE IS THE ANSWER!

SHE IS SHARON ING, HEIRESS, ACTRESS, JET-SET SOCIALITE, INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED BEAUTY. BUT RIGHT NOW FAME AND FORTUNE HAVE NO MEANING TO HER, SO LOST IS SHE IN LOVE WITH THE MAN WHO HOLDS HER SO FIRMLY AND KISSES HER SO SENSUOUSLY.
NOBODY DOES IT BETTER.
SHARON ING DOESN'T KNOW WHO'S KISSING HER. NOT REALLY. A MAN, SHE THINKS, A WONDERFUL, INCREDIBLE, UNFORGETTABLE MAN WHO SOMEHOW, SEEMINGLY MAGICALLY, FOUND HER AND CAPTURED HER HEART.
IT IS NO MAN EMBRACING HER, HOWEVER. IT IS THE ONE FROM BEYOND--AND HE WILL BE THE DEATH OF HER.

JIM SHOOTER SCRIPTER | AL MILGROM PENCILER | LEIALOHA & RUBINSTEIN INKERS | J.ROSEN & FRIENDS LETTERERS | MAX SCHEELE COLORIST | BOB BUDIANSKY EDITOR

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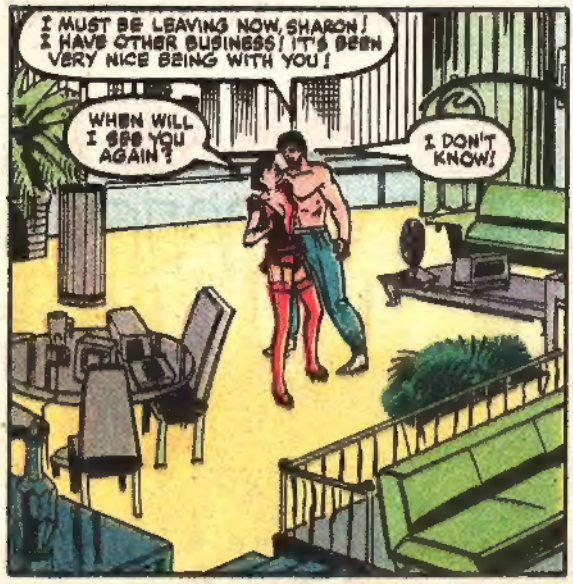
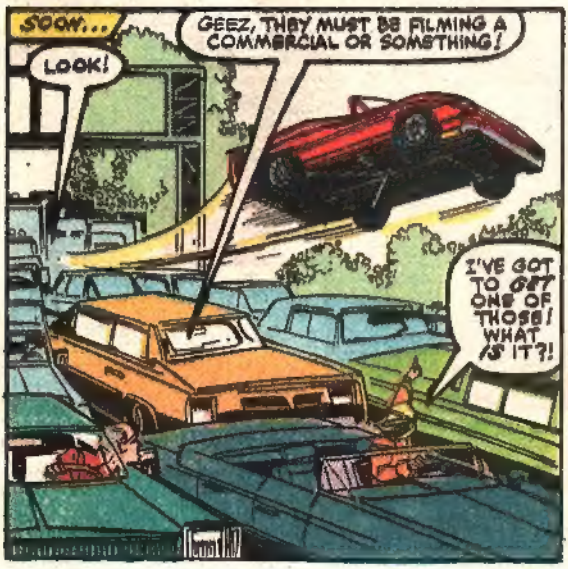

I MUST BE LEAVING NOW, SHARON! I HAVE OTHER BUSINESS! IT'S BEEN VERY NICE BEING WITH YOU!
WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW!

I'M NEVER GOING TO SEE YOU AGAIN, AM I?
I DON'T THINK SO!
I LOVE YOU! DO YOU KNOW THAT? THOUGH I'VE ONLY KNOWN YOU FOR A SHORT TIME, NO ONE HAS EVER MEANT SO MUCH TO ME! I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE YOU BEFORE!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR REAL NAME!
YOU SAID YOU ARE CALLED "THE BEYONDER" BY SOME! WHAT KIND OF A NAME IS THAT? DO YOU HAVE A NAME?
NO!
WHRRRR

GOOD-BYE!

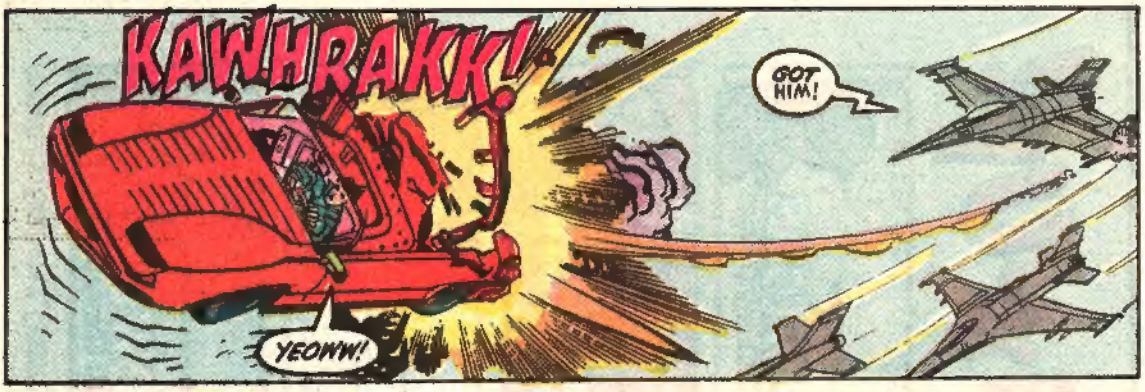
SECONDS LATER, OUTSIDE THE EXPENSIVE WASHINGTON, D.C. HOTEL THAT IS THE TEMPORARY RESIDENCE OF THE ONE FROM BEYOND...
YOUR CAR, SIR! CAREFUL! TRAFFIC'S PRETTY HEAVY TODAY!
OH, THAT WON'T BOTHER ME!


SOON...
LOOK!
GEEZ, THEY MUST BE FILMING A COMMERCIAL OR SOMETHING!
I'VE GOT TO GET ONE OF THOSE! WHAT IS IT?!

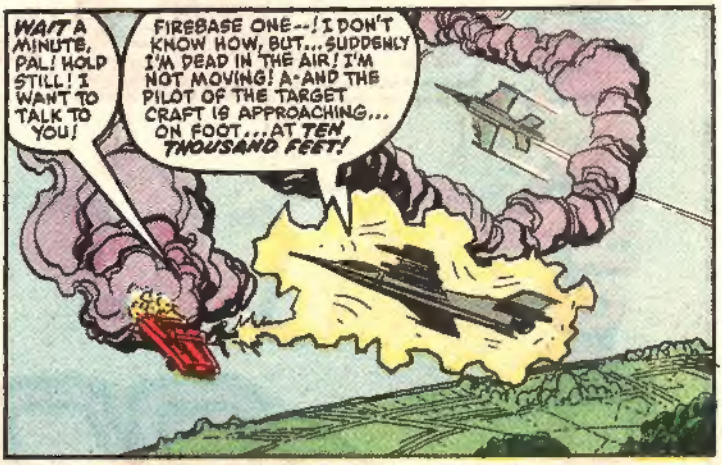
MEANWHILE, AT NEARBY ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE...
WHAT IS IT?!
JUDGING FROM ITS SPEED AND ALTITUDE, SIR, I'D SAY IT'S A CRUISE MISSILE--- BUT THE HEAT SIGNATURE'S ALL WRONG!
WHATEVER IT IS...

"...THE FIGHTERS WE SCRAMBLED OUGHT TO INTERCEPT IT ANY MINUTE NOW!"
AND... I'M AT TEN THOUSAND FEET, NOW! IT'S A WARM, CALM, QUIET ...AND HERE, BEHIND THE WHEEL, IT'S EASY TO THINK AND REFLECT...
NO WONDER SO MANY HUMANS IN THIS COUNTRY TAKE A DRIVE TO RELAX!
DURING THE TIME I'VE BEEN ON EARTH I'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE WAYS OF HUMANS--AND I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF DESIRE WHICH SEEMS TO BE THE BASIS OF MOST OF THE ACTIVITY GOING ON IN THIS UNIVERSE!
I'VE DABBLED WITH VARIOUS MEANS OF GRATIFICATION WITH MIXED RESULTS! I THINK I'M READY TO BEGIN MORE POINTED EXPERIMENTS!
ON THIS TAPE I'LL RECORD THE FIRST STEPS OF MY EXPERIMENTS!
WHILE FLYING UP HERE I QUICKLY SCANNED THE DESIRES OF EVERY LIVING CREATURE ON EARTH. AS I EXPECTED, MOST FALL INTO PRETTY BASIC AND PREDICTABLE PATTERNS! THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS, THOUGH...
THERE IS A CREATURE--OR THE REMAINS OF ONE--LYING VIRTUALLY DEAD FAR, FAR UNDERGROUND BENEATH THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE! HE IS--OR WAS--ALGRIM THE ELF!
HE FELL INTO A LAVA PIT WHILE BATTLING AGAINST THE ASGARDIAN THOR! THE MYSTICAL PROTECTIVE PROPERTIES OF HIS ELFIN ARMOR KEEP HIM EVER-SO-SLIGHTLY ALIVE... THOUGH HIS BODY IS RATHER THOROUGHLY COOKED AND SHRIVELLED!
OF ALL THE HIGHER LIFE-FORMS ON EARTH, HE IS THE MOST SINGLE-MINDED OF PURPOSE--AND PERHAPS IT IS HIS ONE ALL-CONSUMING DESIRE THAT KEPT HIM ALIVE AS MUCH AS HIS ARMOR DID!
HE DESIRES THE DEATH OF HIS ARCH-ENEMY THOR--AND THAT ALONE!
"I THINK I SHALL RESTORE ALGRIM TO HEALTH AND VIGOR--GIVING HIM FAR MORE POWER THAN BEFORE! THERE!
"IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO WATCH HIM FULFILL HIS DESIRE--AND WHEN HE DOES, SEE WHAT HIS REACTION WILL BE!
"HMM... HE SENSES THAT THOR IS IN THE UNITED STATES... AND HE'S WALKING ACROSS THE OCEAN BOTTOM TO REACH HIM!
"I COULD TRANSPORT HIM TO HIS GOAL... BUT NO, I THINK I'LL LET HIM DO IT ALL ON HIS OWN! I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME!"

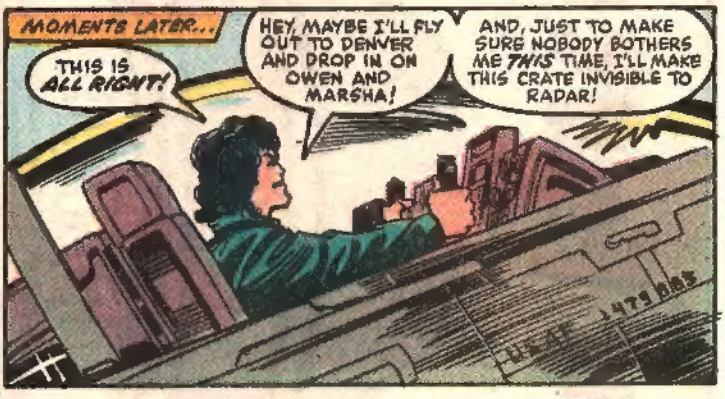
LET'S SEE... WHO ELSE WAS INTERESTING?
"THE LITTLE GIRL, CINDY ADAMS, WHO BY STRANGE CHANCE HAS THE ESSENCE OF AN EVIL ALIEN BEING CALLED A DIRE WRAITH INSIDE HER BRAIN! SHE DESPERATELY WANTS IT OUT OF HER MIND!
"AS DETAILED IN ROM EVERY MONTH--BOB.
"AND CLOSE BY HER, A WOMAN NAMED BRANDY CLARK FERVENTLY DESIRES TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A CYBORG WARRIOR* SO SHE CAN BE REUNITED WITH HER CYBORG-WARRIOR LOVER, ROM, WHO IS ON AN INTERPLANETARY QUEST!
"THEN THERE'S BENJAMIN GRIMM, ALSO KNOWN AS THE THING, WHOSE DESIRES ARE CONFUSING AS WELL AS UNUSUAL!*
*AS READERS OF THE THING SHOULD KNOW--BOB.
"THE ALIEN BEING CALLED THE SILVER SURFER DESIRES FREEDOM FROM EARTH. HE BELIEVES THAT AN IMPENETRABLE BARRIER HOLDS HIM HERE!
"UNITED STATES PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN DESIRES TAX REFORM A CERTAIN WAY...
"...AND CAPTAIN AMERICA DESIRES THAT THE IDEALS HE CHERISHES BECOME REALITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!"
FIREBASE ONE, WE HAVE THE BOGIE IN SIGHT... HOLEE--!
BLUE LEADER, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
I THINK SO...
BLUE LEADER, REPORT! WHAT IS THAT THING?
IT'S A LAMBORGHINI CONTACH, SIR! THERE'S A PILOT--UH, DRIVER! HE'S TALKING INTO A TAPE RECORDER... AND, UH... CHOPPING VEGETABLES IN A CUISINART!
BLUE LEADER, THAT "CAR" IS HEADED IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE AT MISSILE SPEED! TAKE NO CHANCES--BRING IT DOWN!
NOW, SIR?
GIVE IT A FLAT, GOLDARNIT! I DON'T KNOW--! JUST DO IT!

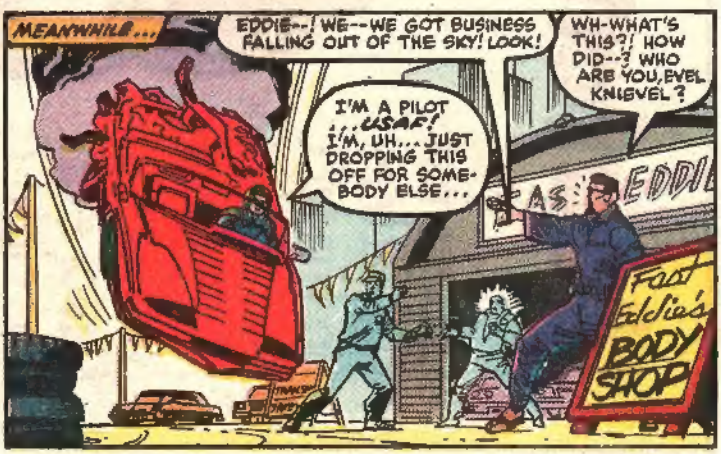

KAWHRAKK!
GOT HIM!
YEONW!

THAT WAS RUDE!


WAIT A MINUTE, PAL! HOLD STILL! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
FIREBASE ONE--! I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT... SUDDENLY I'M DEAD IN THE AIR! I'M NOT MOVING! A-AND THE PILOT OF THE TARGET CRAFT IS APPROACHING... ON FOOT... AT TEN THOUSAND FEET!

MISTER, THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR! MY CAR IS A MESS NOW!
WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING DRIVING AROUND UP HERE? WH-WHY WERE YOU... CHOPPING CARROTS?
THAT? WELL, I LIKE GADGETS! THEY JUST FASCINATE ME, THAT'S ALL-- DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
NOW, ABOUT MY CAR--! I'VE GOT AN IDEA...


MOMENTS LATER...
THIS IS ALL RIGHT!
HEY, MAYBE I'LL FLY OUT TO DENVER AND DROP IN ON OWEN AND MARSHA!
AND, JUST TO MAKE SURE NOBODY BOTHERS ME TWIS TIME, I'LL MAKE THIS CRATE INVISIBLE TO RADAR!


MEANWHILE...
EDDIE--! WE--WE GOT BUSINESS FALLING OUT OF THE SKY! LOOK!
I'M A PILOT ...USAF! I'M, UH... JUST DROPPING THIS OFF FOR SOMEBODY ELSE...
WH-WHAT'S THIS?! HOW DID--? WHO ARE YOU, EVEL KNIEVEL?
Fast Eddie's BODY SHOP

SOME TIME LATER...
...ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH... COLORADO! ROCKY MOUNTAIN HI-I-I-GH!
HMM... NO PLACE TO LAND--
--UNLESS I "HELP" A LITTLE! THERE!
SKREEECH!
WHERE'D THAT JET COME FROM?
IT MUST'VE JUST LANDED!
HERE?! HOW?
WHERE'S THE PILOT?
THAT'S AN F-16! WHAT'S IT DOING ON OUR STREET?
DON'T TOUCH IT! THE ENGINES ARE HOT!
FIND THE PILOT! WHERE IS HE?
PARDON ME, BUT... MAY I GIVE YOU MY CARD? I WROTE MY HOME PHONE ON THE BACK! C-CALL ME SOMETIME!
WHY, THANKS!
WOW! TALK ABOUT BRAZEN--! HE'S A HEARTSTOPPER THOUGH! I GUESS I DON'T BLAME HER!
WISH I'D THOUGHT OF THAT FIRST! WHAT A TOTAL HUNK!
SHORTLY, AT THE MODEST APARTMENT OF OWEN REECE AND MARSHA ROSENBERG--ALSO KNOWN TO SOME AS THE MOLECULE MAN AND VOLCANA...
HIYA!
HEY! BEYONDER! LONG TIME NO SEE! COME ON IN!
THEN THAT MUST BE YOUR AIRPLANE OUTSIDE!
YES!
OH... WELL--
--I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I SURREPTITIOUSLY DISINTEGRATE IT! SEE, MARSHA AND I ARE TRYING TO BE DISCREET...
'BYE, SNOOKUMS! I'M OFF TO DANCERCISE SOME BLUBBER AWAY!
'BYE, LOVEY-PIE!
SEEYA, MARSHA!
SMEK!

WHERE WAS I? OH, YEAH! THAT JET WAS JUST A MITE TOO CONSPICUOUS! SORRY!
SO... WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO THIS "DESIRE" THING, AND I THINK I'M CATCHING ON --THOUGH IT'S STILL A VERY NEW AND DIFFICULT CONCEPT FOR ME! BUT, WHAT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IS...*LOVE!*

YOUR GUIDANCE WAS VERY HELPFUL TO ME WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN THIS UNIVERSE! I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD EXPLAIN LOVE TO ME!
ME? EXPLAIN *LOVE*? WOW...
GEE... I *USED* TO THINK IT WAS JUST LIKING SOMEONE VERY, VERY MUCH-- BUT THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
ALL I CAN DO IS TELL YOU ABOUT MARSHA AND ME!

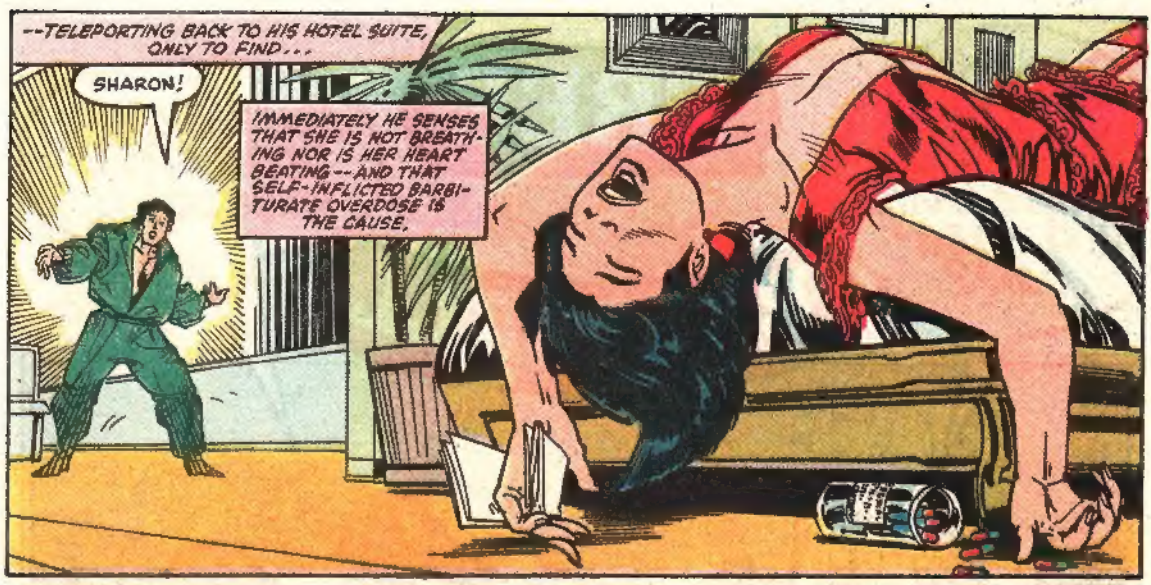
SHE TAUGHT ME ABOUT LOVE! SHE'S A VERY LOVING, GIVING PERSON! SOON AS WE MET, RIGHT AWAY SHE CARED ABOUT ME! EVENTUALLY, SHE GREW TO CARE ABOUT ME EVEN MORE THAN SHE CARED ABOUT HERSELF!
NOT BECAUSE I'M THE MOLECULE MAN AND I CAN DO *ANYTHING* FOR HER--! NO, IT WASN'T A BUSINESS DEAL, WITH HER TRADING HER AFFECTION FOR MINE, OR FOR THE THINGS I COULD EASILY PROVIDE! NOSSIR!

IT WAS BECAUSE SHE SAW SOMETHING WORTHWHILE INSIDE ME--LONG BEFORE *I* DID! I WAS PRETTY SCREWED UP BACK THEN...
BUT WHEN I FINALLY STOPPED BEING WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN SELF-DOUBT, HATE AND FEAR, FINALLY I WAS ABLE TO GIVE, TOO!

LOVE IS ALWAYS GOOD, BUT IT'S NICE WHEN IT'S MUTUAL! IT CAN MAKE YOU SO HAPPY! AND THE MORE YOU GIVE--THE MORE YOU *HAVE* TO GIVE! IT'S AMAZING! IT'S... LIMITLESS!
YEAH...

I UNDERSTAND NOW! THANK YOU!
GLAD I COULD HELP! BUT JUST REMEMBER, BEYONDER, LOVE IS ONLY GOOD IF IT'S *REAL*--NO COST, NO OBLIGATION! LOVE GONE WRONG CAN BE *DANGEROUS*-- EVEN TO GUYS LIKE US!

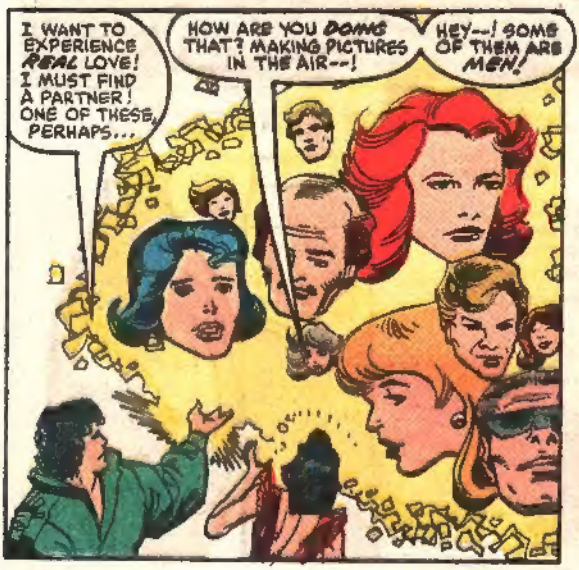
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!
I SHALL!
IN A FLASH, THE ONE FROM BEYOND TAKES HIS LEAVE--


--TELEPORTING BACK TO HIS HOTEL SUITE, ONLY TO FIND...
SHARON!
IMMEDIATELY HE SENSES THAT SHE IS NOT BREATHING NOR IS HER HEART BEATING--AND THAT SELF-INFLICTED BARBITURATE OVERDOSE IS THE CAUSE.

HMM...
My love, I have never loved anyone the way I love you. Without you there is nothing. I am nothing. I cannot go on living without you. Forgive me, my love.
SHE'S DEAD BY HUMAN MEDICAL STANDARDS--

--BUT NOT BEYOND THE REACH OF MY POWER!
OH! MY HEAD...
WHAT--? I'M ALIVE! I'M ALL RIGHT! BUT...
BEYONDER! YOU CAME BACK TO ME!

NO, I SIMPLY CAME BACK! THIS LOVE YOU PROFESS FOR ME--WHY DO YOU FEEL IT?
WH-WHY? BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DO FOR ME... WHAT YOU DO TO ME! YOU BRING ME ECSTASY LIKE NO ONE ELSE COULD! YOU'RE WONDERFUL TO ME!
AH! A BUSINESS DEAL...
WHAT?


I WANT TO EXPERIENCE REAL LOVE! I MUST FIND A PARTNER! ONE OF THESE, PERHAPS...
HOW ARE YOU DOING THAT? MAKING PICTURES IN THE AIR--!
HEY--! SOME OF THEM ARE MEN!

WHY NOT? I AM INNATELY OF NEITHER GENDER! I COULD JUST AS EASILY TAKE FEMALE FORM! SO!
OHH!

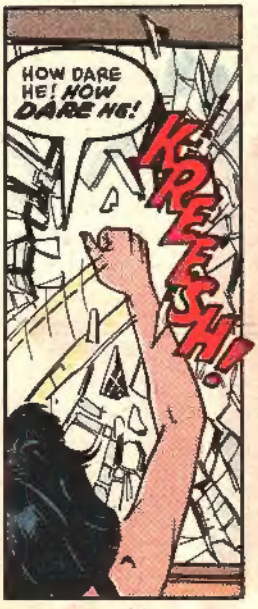
BUT... NO, I ADOPTED THE MALE FORM FIRST, AND I'M *USED* TO IT!
H-HOW DO YOU *DO* THESE THINGS? WHO *ARE* YOU?
OH, NEVER MIND!
LET'S SEE... A SUITABLE WOMAN... HMM...
AH! *THAT* ONE!

HER? WHY HER? I'M AS PRETTY AS SHE IS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
YOUR LOVE IS NOT REAL! YOU BARGAIN IT AWAY IN RETURN FOR HOW I MAKE YOU FEEL! I ONLY CONSIDERED WOMEN WHOSE LOVE CANNOT BE BOUGHT AT ANY PRICE!

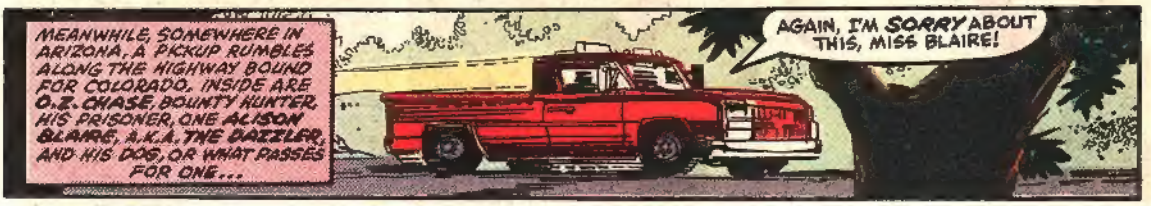
SHE STOOD OUT AMONG THEM BECAUSE SHE IS ALSO A *MUTANT*--PERHAPS THE MOST POWERFUL EVER TO WALK THIS PLANET! THAT INTRIGUES ME, AS WELL!
PLEASE, GO NOW!
ALL RIGHT...

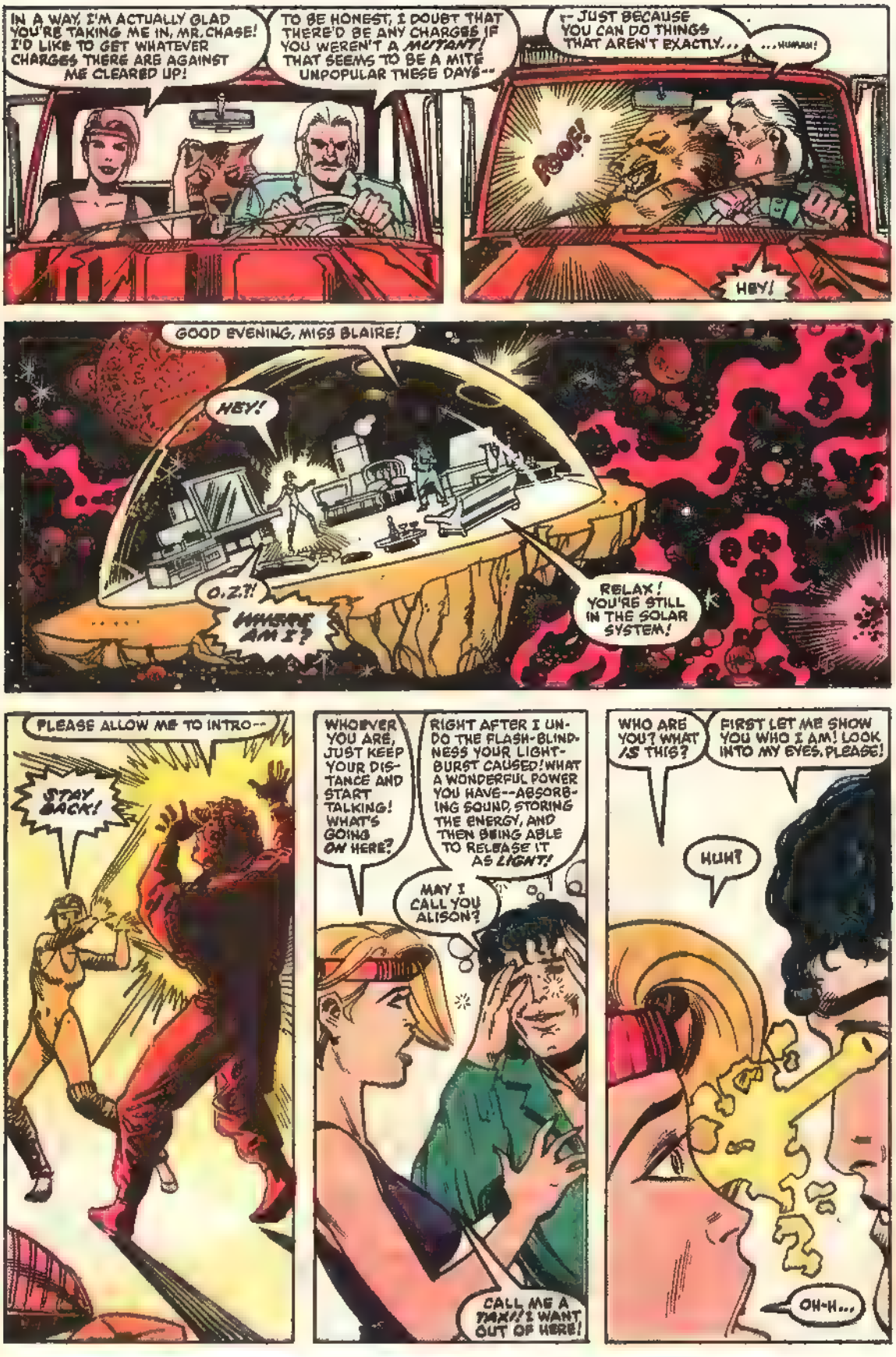
OUTSIDE, IN THE CORRIDOR...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I--I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE... IT'S OVER!

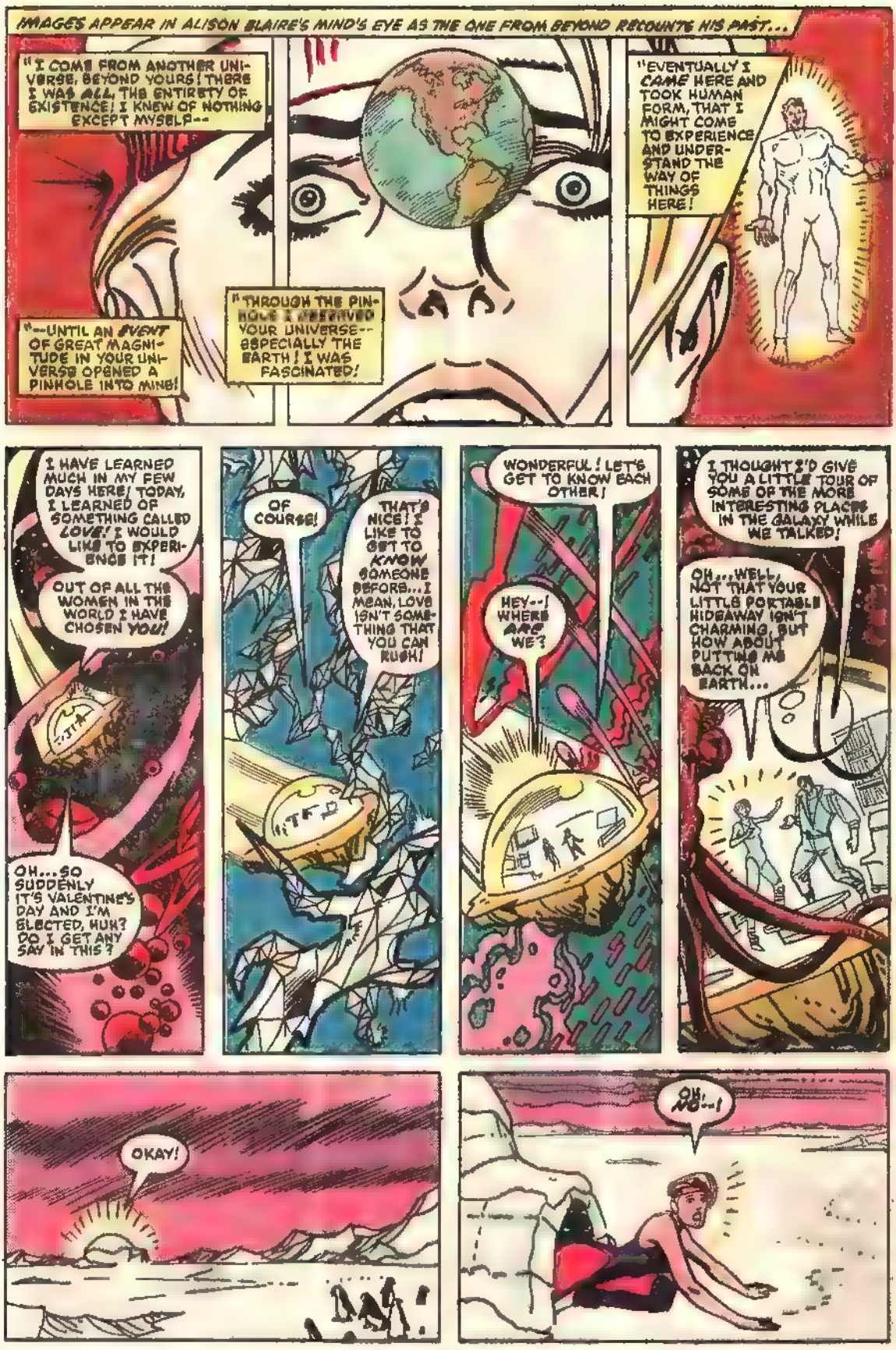
THIS TIME IT'S FINISHED FOREVER! HE ALREADY HAS SOMEONE ELSE--JUST LIKE THAT! I'M... NOTHING TO HIM! GARBAGE, TO BE CAST ASIDE!

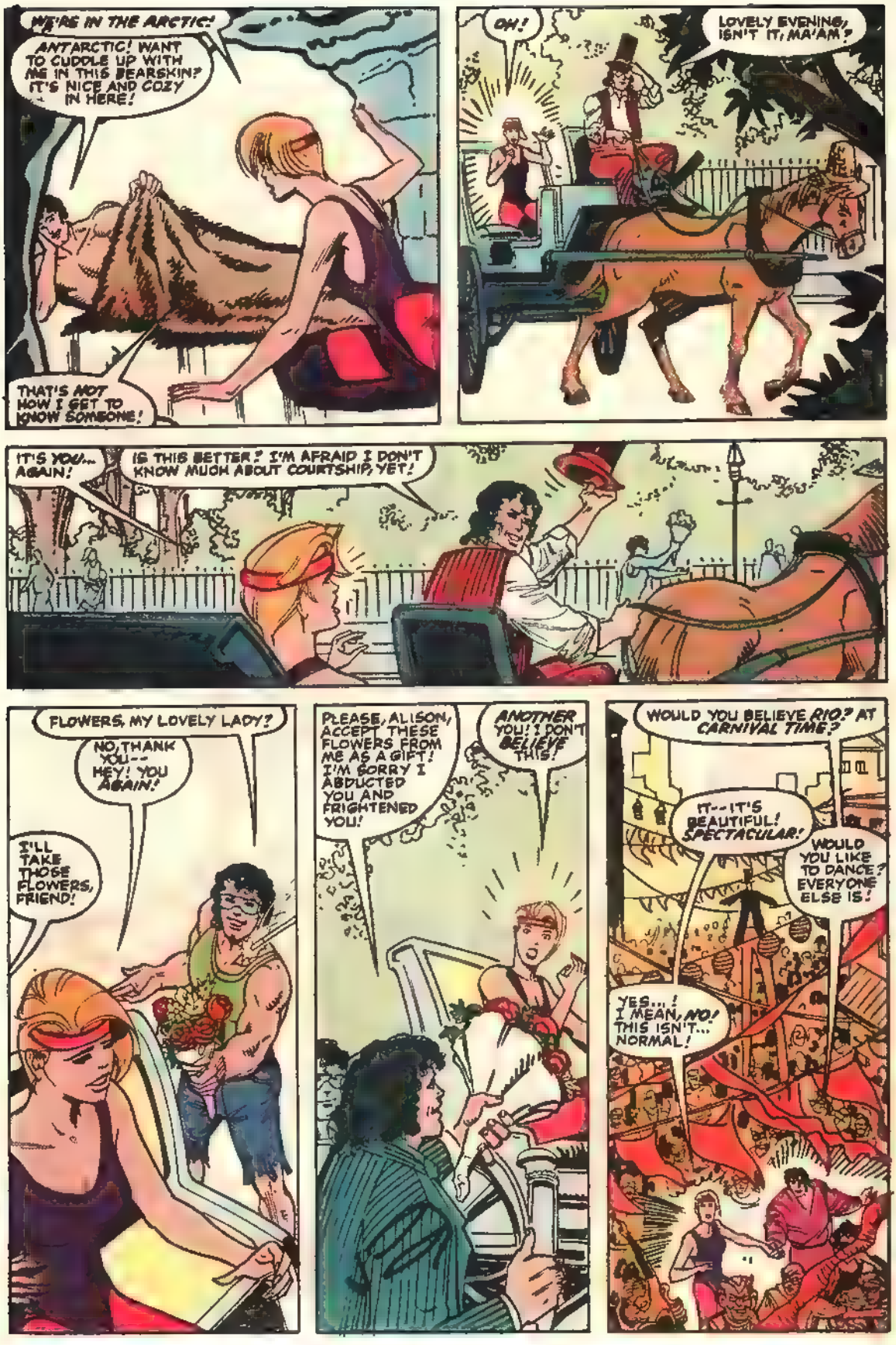

HOW DARE HE! *HOW DARE HE!*
KREESH!

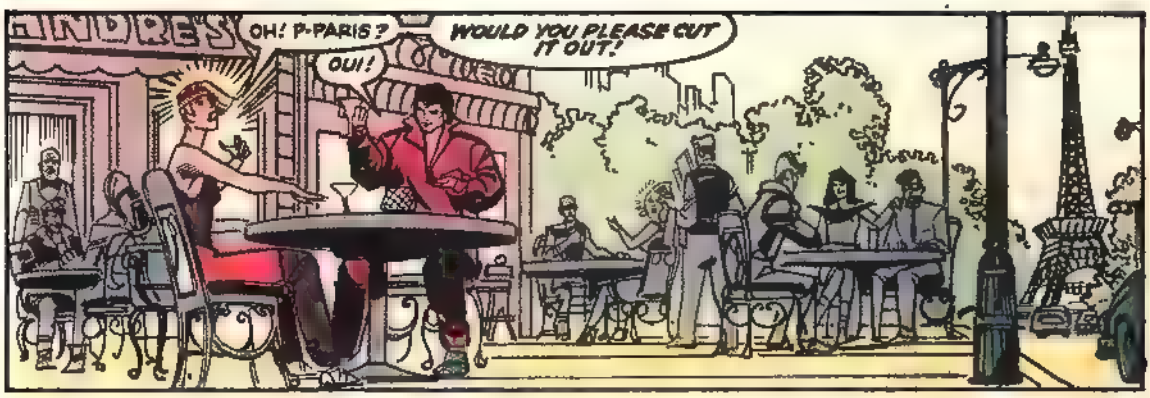
MOMENTS LATER, AS THE ELEVATOR ARRIVES...
WHAT A STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN--! AND THE WAY SHE CARRIES HERSELF--SO ERECT, SO PROUD! LIKE A QUEEN!


MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN ARIZONA, A PICKUP RUMBLES ALONG THE HIGHWAY BOUND FOR COLORADO. INSIDE ARE O.Z. CHASE, BOUNTY HUNTER, HIS PRISONER, ONE ALISON BLAIRE, A.K.A. THE DAZZLER, AND HIS DOG, OR WHAT PASSES FOR ONE...
AGAIN, I'M *SORRY* ABOUT THIS, MISS BLAIRE!

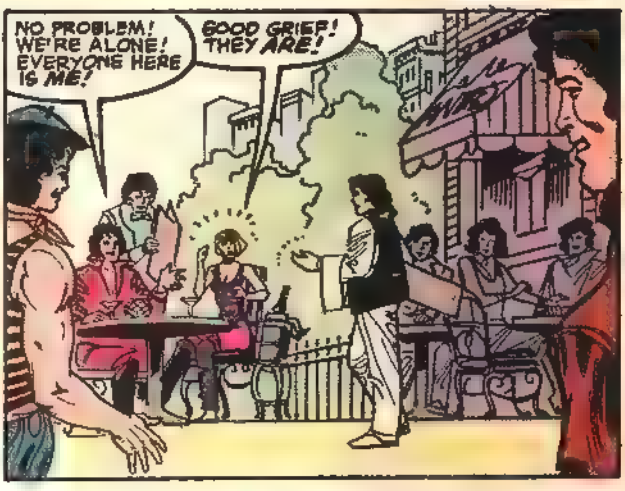

IN A WAY, I'M ACTUALLY GLAD YOU'RE TAKING ME IN, MR. CHASE! I'D LIKE TO GET WHATEVER CHARGES THERE ARE AGAINST ME CLEARED UP!
TO BE HONEST, I DOUBT THAT THERE'D BE ANY CHARGES IF YOU WEREN'T A MUTANT! THAT SEEMS TO BE A MITE UNPOPULAR THESE DAYS--
-- JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN DO THINGS THAT AREN'T EXACTLY...
...HUMAN!
POOF!
HEY!
GOOD EVENING, MISS BLAIRE!
HEY!
O.Z.?!
WHERE AM I?
RELAX! YOU'RE STILL IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM!
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRO--
STAY BACK!
WHOEVER YOU ARE, JUST KEEP YOUR DISTANCE AND START TALKING! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
RIGHT AFTER I UNDO THE FLASH-BLINDNESS YOUR LIGHT-BURST CAUSED! WHAT A WONDERFUL POWER YOU HAVE--ABSORBING SOUND, STORING THE ENERGY, AND THEN BEING ABLE TO RELEASE IT AS LIGHT!
MAY I CALL YOU ALISON?
CALL ME A TAXI! I WANT OUT OF HERE!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS?
FIRST LET ME SHOW YOU WHO I AM! LOOK INTO MY EYES, PLEASE!
HUH?
OH-H...

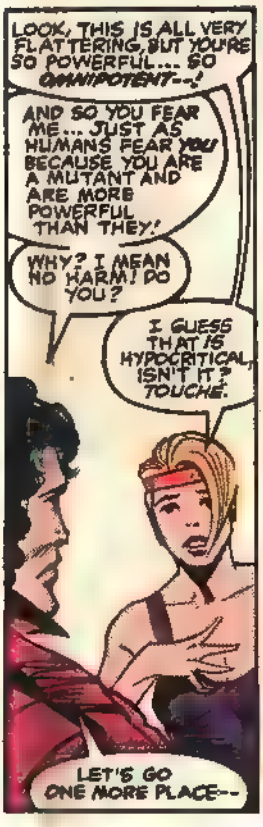

IMAGES APPEAR IN ALISON BLAIRE'S MIND'S EYE AS THE ONE FROM BEYOND RECOUNTS HIS PAST...
"I COME FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE, BEYOND YOURS! THERE I WAS ALL, THE ENTIRETY OF EXISTENCE! I KNEW OF NOTHING EXCEPT MYSELF--
"--UNTIL AN EVENT OF GREAT MAGNITUDE IN YOUR UNIVERSE OPENED A PINHOLE INTO MINE!
"THROUGH THE PINHOLE I OBSERVED YOUR UNIVERSE--ESPECIALLY THE EARTH! I WAS FASCINATED!
"EVENTUALLY I CAME HERE AND TOOK HUMAN FORM, THAT I MIGHT COME TO EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTAND THE WAY OF THINGS HERE!
I HAVE LEARNED MUCH IN MY FEW DAYS HERE! TODAY, I LEARNED OF SOMETHING CALLED LOVE! I WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE IT!
OUT OF ALL THE WOMEN IN THE WORLD I HAVE CHOSEN YOU!
OH...SO SUDDENLY IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY AND I'M ELECTED, HUH? DO I GET ANY SAY IN THIS?
OF COURSE!
THAT'S NICE! I LIKE TO GET TO KNOW SOMEONE BEFORE...I MEAN, LOVE ISN'T SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN RUSH!
WONDERFUL! LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
HEY--! WHERE ARE WE?
I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU A LITTLE TOUR OF SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING PLACES IN THE GALAXY WHILE WE TALKED!
OH...WELL, NOT THAT YOUR LITTLE PORTABLE HIDEAWAY ISN'T CHARMING, BUT HOW ABOUT PUTTING ME BACK ON EARTH...
OKAY!
OH NO--!

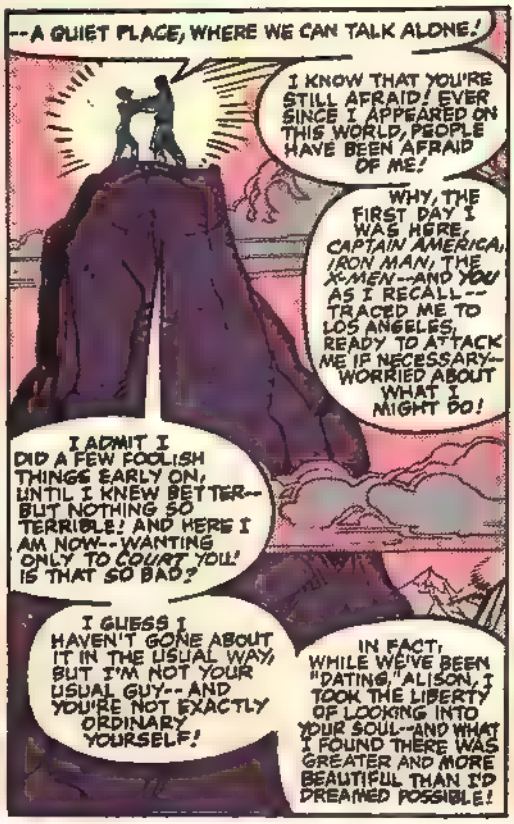

WE'RE IN THE ARCTIC!
ANTARCTIC! WANT TO CUDDLE UP WITH ME IN THIS BEARSKIN? IT'S NICE AND COZY IN HERE!
THAT'S NOT HOW I GET TO KNOW SOMEONE!
OH!
LOVELY EVENING, ISN'T IT, MA'AM?
IT'S YOU... AGAIN!
IS THIS BETTER? I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT COURTSHIP, YET!
FLOWERS, MY LOVELY LADY?
NO, THANK YOU-- HEY! YOU AGAIN!
I'LL TAKE THOSE FLOWERS, FRIEND!
PLEASE, ALISON, ACCEPT THESE FLOWERS FROM ME AS A GIFT! I'M SORRY I ABDUCTED YOU AND FRIGHTENED YOU!
ANOTHER YOU! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE RIO? AT CARNIVAL TIME?
IT--IT'S BEAUTIFUL! SPECTACULAR!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DANCE? EVERYONE ELSE IS!
YES...! I MEAN, NO! THIS ISN'T... NORMAL!


ANDRE'S
OH! P-PARIS?
OUI!
WOULD YOU PLEASE CUT IT OUT!

I'M SORRY, MA CHERIE! I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE YOU SMILE!
YEAH... WELL... I'M SORRY I SHOUTED! I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE A SCENE HERE, BUT...

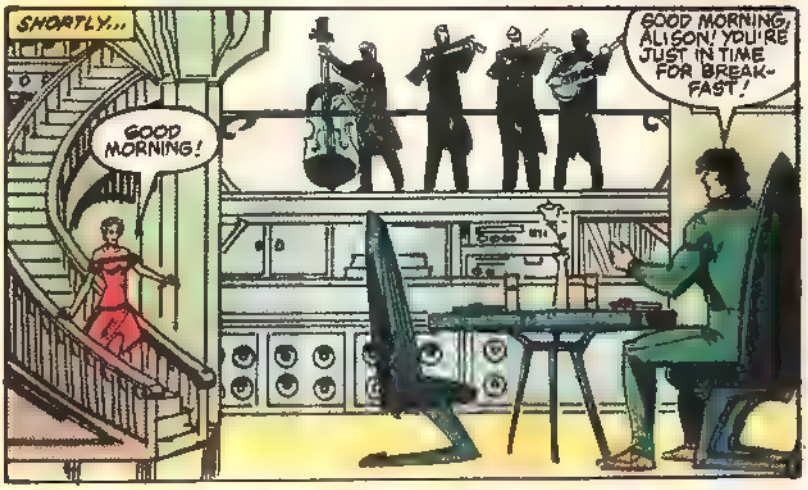

NO PROBLEM! WE'RE ALONE! EVERYONE HERE IS ME!
GOOD GRIEF! THEY ARE!

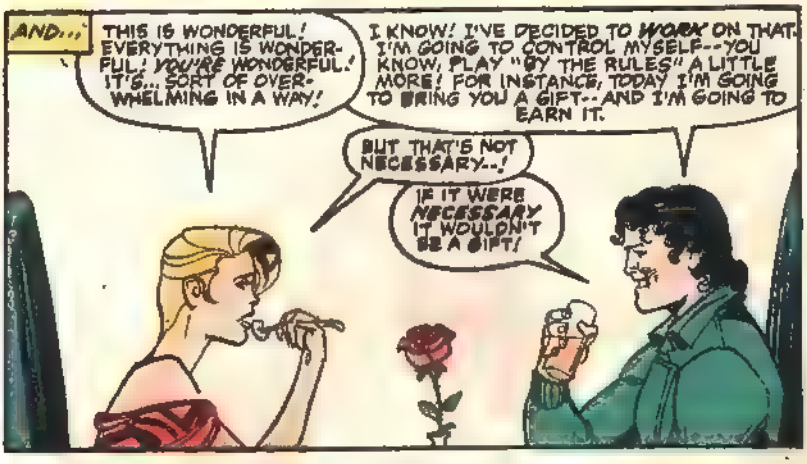

LOOK, THIS IS ALL VERY FLATTERING, BUT YOU'RE SO POWERFUL... SO OMNIPOTENT--!
AND SO YOU FEAR ME... JUST AS HUMANS FEAR YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE A MUTANT AND ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN THEY!
WHY? I MEAN NO HARM! DO YOU?
I GUESS THAT IS HYPOCRITICAL, ISN'T IT? TOUCHE.
LET'S GO ONE MORE PLACE--

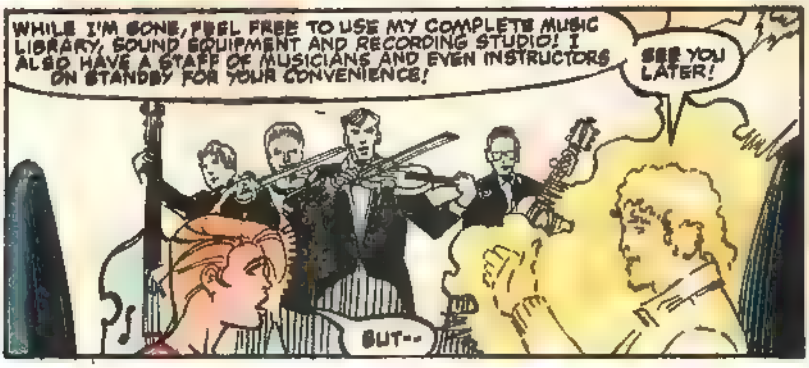

--A QUIET PLACE, WHERE WE CAN TALK ALONE!
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE STILL AFRAID! EVER SINCE I APPEARED ON THIS WORLD, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN AFRAID OF ME!
WHY, THE FIRST DAY I WAS HERE, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, THE X-MEN--AND YOU AS I RECALL--TRACED ME TO LOS ANGELES, READY TO ATTACK ME IF NECESSARY--WORRIED ABOUT WHAT I MIGHT DO!
I ADMIT I DID A FEW FOOLISH THINGS EARLY ON, UNTIL I KNEW BETTER--BUT NOTHING SO TERRIBLE! AND HERE I AM NOW--WANTING ONLY TO COURT YOU! IS THAT SO BAD?
I GUESS I HAVEN'T GONE ABOUT IT IN THE USUAL WAY, BUT I'M NOT YOUR USUAL GUY--AND YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY ORDINARY YOURSELF!
IN FACT, WHILE WE'VE BEEN "DATING," ALISON, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF LOOKING INTO YOUR SOUL--AND WHAT I FOUND THERE WAS GREATER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I'D DREAMED POSSIBLE!

IT'S ASTOUNDING... PARADOXICAL! ALL AT ONCE, YOU ARE BUT A TINY SPECK OF PROTOPLASM, AN INFINITESIMAL MOTE IN THE WHOLE OF THIS UNIVERSE--AND YET, INSIDE, IN THE ESSENCE OF YOUR BEING, YOU ARE MORE, IT SEEMS, THAN THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!
I AM AWED! BUT I DO NOT FEAR YOU! GIVE ME A CHANCE, ALISON! THAT'S ALL I ASK!

NEXT MORNING...
OH! BOY, I'VE WORN THIS QUESTION OUT LATELY, BUT-- WHERE AM I? MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DID I GET... HERE?
YOU ARE IN THE MASTER'S HOUSE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE! APPARENTLY, YOU HAD A VERY BUSY DAY YESTERDAY! YOU MUST'VE FALLEN ASLEEP... THE MASTER BROUGHT YOU HERE... WE PUT YOU TO BED.
BON JOUR, MADEMOISELLE!


SHORTLY...
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING, ALISON! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR BREAK-FAST!


AND...
THIS IS WONDERFUL! EVERYTHING IS WONDERFUL! YOU'RE WONDERFUL! IT'S... SORT OF OVER-WHELMING IN A WAY!
I KNOW! I'VE DECIDED TO WORK ON THAT. I'M GOING TO CONTROL MYSELF--YOU KNOW, PLAY "BY THE RULES" A LITTLE MORE! FOR INSTANCE, TODAY I'M GOING TO BRING YOU A GIFT--AND I'M GOING TO EARN IT.
BUT THAT'S NOT NECESSARY..!
IF IT WERE NECESSARY IT WOULDN'T BE A GIFT!


WHILE I'M GONE, FEEL FREE TO USE MY COMPLETE MUSIC LIBRARY, SOUND EQUIPMENT AND RECORDING STUDIO! I ALSO HAVE A STAFF OF MUSICIANS AND EVEN INSTRUCTORS ON STANDBY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!
SEE YOU LATER!
BUT--

AND AT THE WEST EDMONTON MALL, IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA ...
... WHERE, MOMENTS AGO, A PITCHED BATTLE BETWEEN THE CANADIAN SUPER TEAM CALLED ALPHA FLIGHT AND THEIR ARCH-ENEMIES OMEGA FLIGHT ENDED WITH A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL BY THE OMEGANS ...*
LOOK! SOMEONE'S MATERIALIZING OUT OF THIN AIR!
*IN ALPHA FLIGHT #27--BOB.
DO YOU THINK HE'S ANOTHER MEMBER OF OMEGA FLIGHT? A NEW ONE?
CLEARLY, HE IS NO ORDINARY SHOPPER, HEATHER!
UNTIL WE ARE CERTAIN WHOSE SIDE HE IS ON, WE MUST ASSUME HE IS A POTENTIAL THREAT!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SHAMAN! LET'S SUBDUE HIM--AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE--SO WE CAN QUESTION HIM!
LET'S GO!
HELLO, ALPHA FLIGHT! YOU'RE JUST THE PEOPLE I'M LOOKING FOR!
GRAB HIM!
I, OF COURSE, REALIZE WHY YOU FEEL OBLIGED TO ATTACK ME! AND, I KNOW THAT THERE IS NOTHING I CAN SAY WHICH WILL CONVINCE YOU THAT THIS IS NOT NECESSARY! YOU WOULD SUSPECT TREACHERY...
I COULD SIMPLY WILL YOUR COOPERATION ... BUT I'M TRYING TO GET BY USING LESS POWER! I THINK IT MIGHT BE MORE SATISFYING!
GO-O... HERE WE GO, THE HARD WAY!
NORTHSTAR! PUCK! YOU FIRST!
USING NORTHSTAR AS A MISSILE TO BRING DOWN HIS SISTER AURORA--WHO LIKE HIM, HAS SUPER-SPEED, IS SOMEHOW FITTING, ISN'T IT? IT'S ALSO INTERESTING SINCE IT AFFECTS THEIR POWERS! OF COURSE, THEY'RE TOO STUNNED TO NOTICE! A CURIOUS PHENOMENON!
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT US? WHO ARE YOU?

I AM FROM BEYOND! I HAVE POWER FAR GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ALL POWER IN EXISTENCE IN THIS UNIVERSE... AND I KNOW WHAT I CHOOSE TO KNOW!
DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, BOY?
...UH? NOT REALLY... BUT BEING EFFORTLESSLY BOUNCED AWAY CLEARS UP ONE AREA! YOU JUST CAN'T ARGUE WITH EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE...
AH, SHAMAN-BARD--WHO CAN CHANGE AT WILL INTO BEASTS OF AWESOME POWER! HOW ABOUT IF I JUST MAKE YOU SLEEP!
IMPRESSIVE! YOU HAVE YET TO RECKON WITH ME, HOWEVER!
SHAMAN! JUST THE MAN I NEED TO TALK TO!
WE'LL TALK--AFTER I USE AN ARTIFACT FROM MY MEDICINE POUCH TO RENDER YOU HELPLESS!
WELL, ACTUALLY, I'M HERE TO BORROW YOUR POUCH FOR A MOMENT!
WHAT--! NO!
RELAX! I'LL JUST KEEP IT FOR A SECOND--AND I INTEND TO PAY FOR USING IT, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!
THE POUCH--IT'S GROWING!

CORRECT! AND HERE IS YOUR PAYMENT IN ADVANCE, SHAMAN!
MY DAUGHTER! TALISMAN! YOU DREW HER FORTH FROM THE MYSTIC VOID INSIDE THE POUCH, WHERE SHE WAS TRAPPED! * YOU SAVED HER!
* SEE ALPHA FLIGHT # 22 -- BOB.
RIGHT! IT WAS EASY ONCE I ENLARGED THE POUCH SO SHE WOULD FIT THROUGH THE MOUTH!
TALISMAN! SHE'S BACK!
AND OUR STRANGE FOE DID IT!
NOW I'LL RESTORE THE POUCH TO ITS NORMAL SIZE--
--AND FISH OUT WHAT I CAME FOR!
MISTER, WE MUST TALK--
OKAY, BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT! I'M IN A HURRY!
AND SO, SECONDS LATER...
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO DEPART!
AWESOME!
HALF A WORLD AWAY...
PLEASE, MADEMOISELLE, PLEASE! YOU MUST NOT LEAVE BEFORE THE MASTER RETURNS!
SORRY...
ALISON--! YOU'RE LEAVING?! WHAT'S WRONG?

LOOK! I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT! JUST LIKE I PROMISED!
NO THANK YOU! SOMEHOW, I'M GOING TO GET MYSELF ON A FLIGHT TO NEW YORK! THAT'S ALL--
--I WANT...
GEK!
IS THIS OKAY? OR WOULD YOU RATHER BE UPTOWN?
I--I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T DO THAT ANY-MORE!
LOOK, I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS! HONEST, I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU ANYMORE, BUT I DON'T WANT TRIPS AND PRESENTS AND THINGS SO EASILY!
OKAY, NO PRESENT! IT'S JUST A TRINKET, ANYWAY!
CLINK!
LOOK, DON'T GET ME WRONG--! YESTERDAY WAS REALLY BEAUTIFUL! BEAUTIFUL BEYOND WORDS! I GET CHILLS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT... AND I KNOW I COULD VERY EASILY JUST... LOSE MYSELF IN YOU!
BUT I'VE GOT A LIFE TO LIVE--! AND I WANT TO GET BACK TO IT! I'VE GOT DREAMS--!
I KNOW!
DAZZLER
HUH?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--! I GIVE YOU THE INCOMPARABLE ALISON BLAIRE-- THE DAZZLER!
GO AHEAD, ALISON -- SING! LISTEN TO THEM CHEER! SING FOR THEM! IT'S YOUR DREAM! IT'S WHAT YOU WANT!
NOT THIS WAY!
BUT-- THIS IS REAL! THOSE ARE REAL PEOPLE! I WAS VERY CAREFUL TO DO THIS CORRECTLY! I PRINTED AND SOLD TICKETS, I...
PLEASE PUT ME BACK WHERE WE WERE A MINUTE AGO!

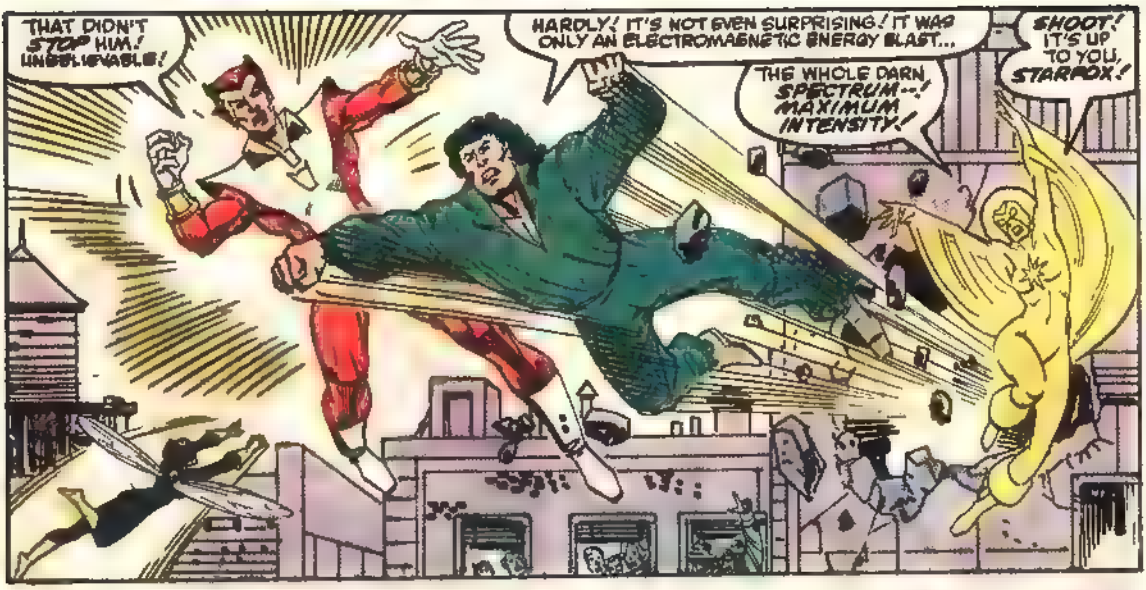
OKAY! I'M SORRY! NOW I FEEL LOUSY...
SHALL I CALL YOU A TAXI?
NO! YOU'D PROBABLY WHIP ONE UP OUT OF THIN AIR! YOU'RE JUST TOO ALL-POWERFUL!
YOU'RE EXACTLY CORRECT, MISS BLAIRE!
HE'S TOO POWERFUL AND TOO DANGEROUS FOR THE AVENGERS TO ALLOW TO ROAM FREE!
THE AVENGERS!
CAPTAIN AMERICA JUST SAID THAT, DUMMY! CAN'T YOU HEAR?
LET US SEE JUST HOW MIGHTY THIS "BEYONDER" IS! HAVE AT THEE, KNAVE!
HEY, HERCULES--! TAKE IT EASY!
YOU'RE RIPPING MY SHIRT!
STOP! LEAVE HIM ALONE! HE WASN'T DOING ANYTHING WRONG!
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW, HERC, I'M AS "MIGHTY" AS I WANT TO BE-- OWW!
THE WASP! WELL, YOUR LITTLE STINGS ARE ANNOYING, I'LL GRANT YOU THAT!
ANNOYING--? BY THE NERVE--! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT WHILE IT LOOKS EENSY-WEENSY, THIS FULL-POWER BIO-ELECTRIC STING COULD FLATTEN A HOUSE!
APPARENTLY, YOU'RE JUST MORE DURABLE THAN MOST HOUSES!
NICE EYES, TOO... AND YOU DRESS SO WELL!

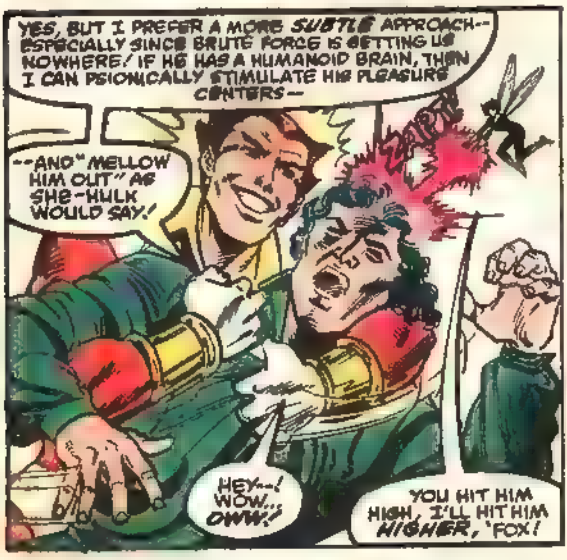
HA! I'M FAST ENOUGH TO GRAB YOUR SHIELD OUT OF THE AIR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND-- OWW!
WHAT?! AND AFTER I ADMIRED YOUR FASHION SENSE?!
ZADT!
AND I'M TEMPTED TO USE IT TO SWAT A CERTAIN BUG-LIKE NUISANCE!
I MEANT FOR YOU TO CATCH THE SHIELD, BEYONDER-- AND NOW THAT YOU'RE MOMENTARILY UNDECIDED ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH IT...
AVENGERS ATTACK!

PRESS HIM! GIVE HIM NO QUARTER!
BEYONDER, WHO DOES YOUR HAIR? I JUST LOVE IT! I HONESTLY REGRET FRIZZING YOUR PERM LIKE THIS!
ZAP!
UH--! OWW!
DO NOT SPLIT HIM IN TWAIN WITH THY SWORD, BLACK KNIGHT, TILL HERCULES HATH PUMMELED HIM SOUNDLY!

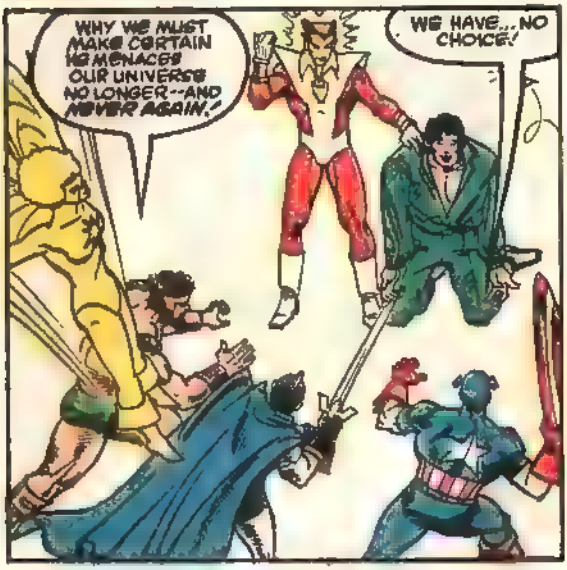
GET AWAY FROM ME!
CAPTAIN MARVEL--! NAIL HIM!
I HEAR YOU, CAP!
STOP IT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH US? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, LADY, THAT YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT'S WRONG ABOUT THIS GUY BEING IN OUR UNIVERSE!
KTHOOM


THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM! UNBELIEVABLE!
HARDLY! IT'S NOT EVEN SURPRISING! IT WAS ONLY AN ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY BLAST...
THE WHOLE DARN SPECTRUM--! MAXIMUM INTENSITY!
SHOOT! IT'S UP TO YOU, STARFOX!

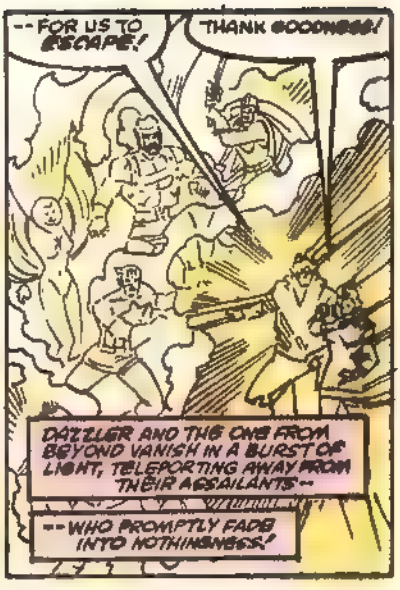

YES, BUT I PREFER A MORE SUBTLE APPROACH--ESPECIALLY SINCE BRUTE FORCE IS GETTING US NOWHERE! IF HE HAS A HUMANOID BRAIN, THEN I CAN PSIONICALLY STIMULATE HIS PLEASURE CENTERS--
--AND "MELLOW HIM OUT" AS SHE-HULK WOULD SAY!
HEY--! WOW... OWW!
YOU HIT HIM HIGH, I'LL HIT HIM HIGHER, FOX!

HE DOESN'T KNOW WHETHER TO LAUGH OR CRY! HE'S COMPLETELY HELPLESS!
NICE WORK, STARFOX!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO HIM?

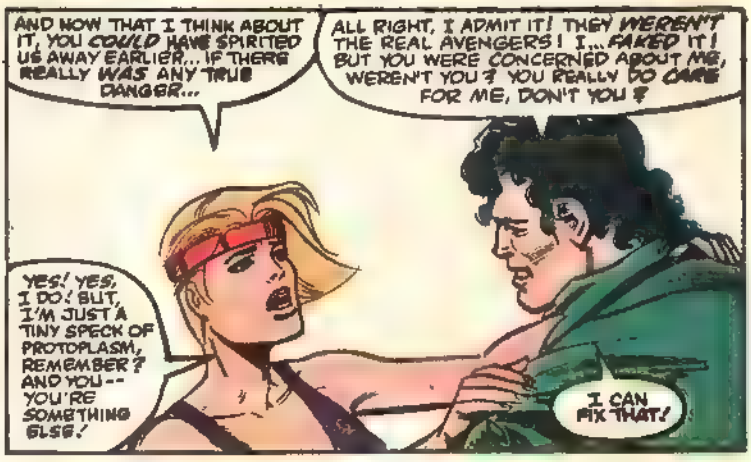

WHY WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN HE MENACES OUR UNIVERSE NO LONGER--AND NEVER AGAIN!
WE HAVE...NO CHOICE!

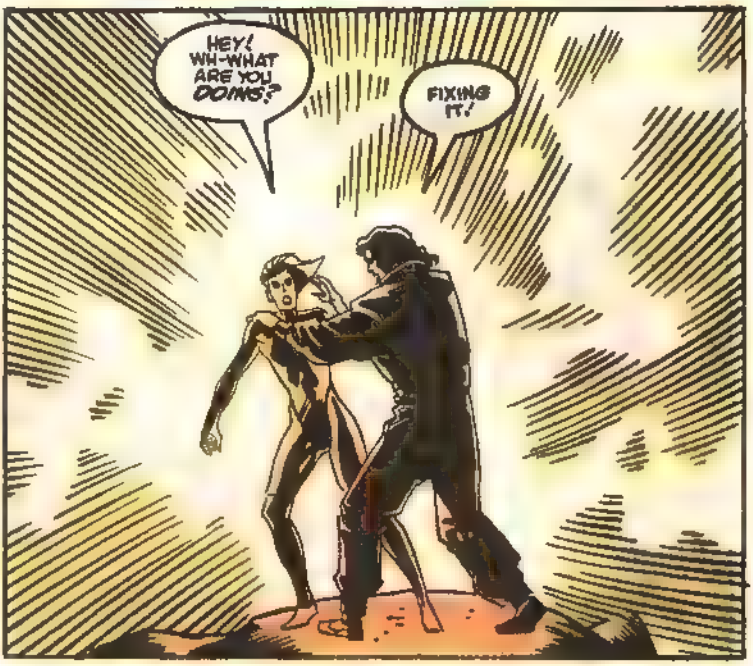
THEN NEITHER DO I, AVENGERS!
EYAHH!
LOOK OUT!
DAZZLER!

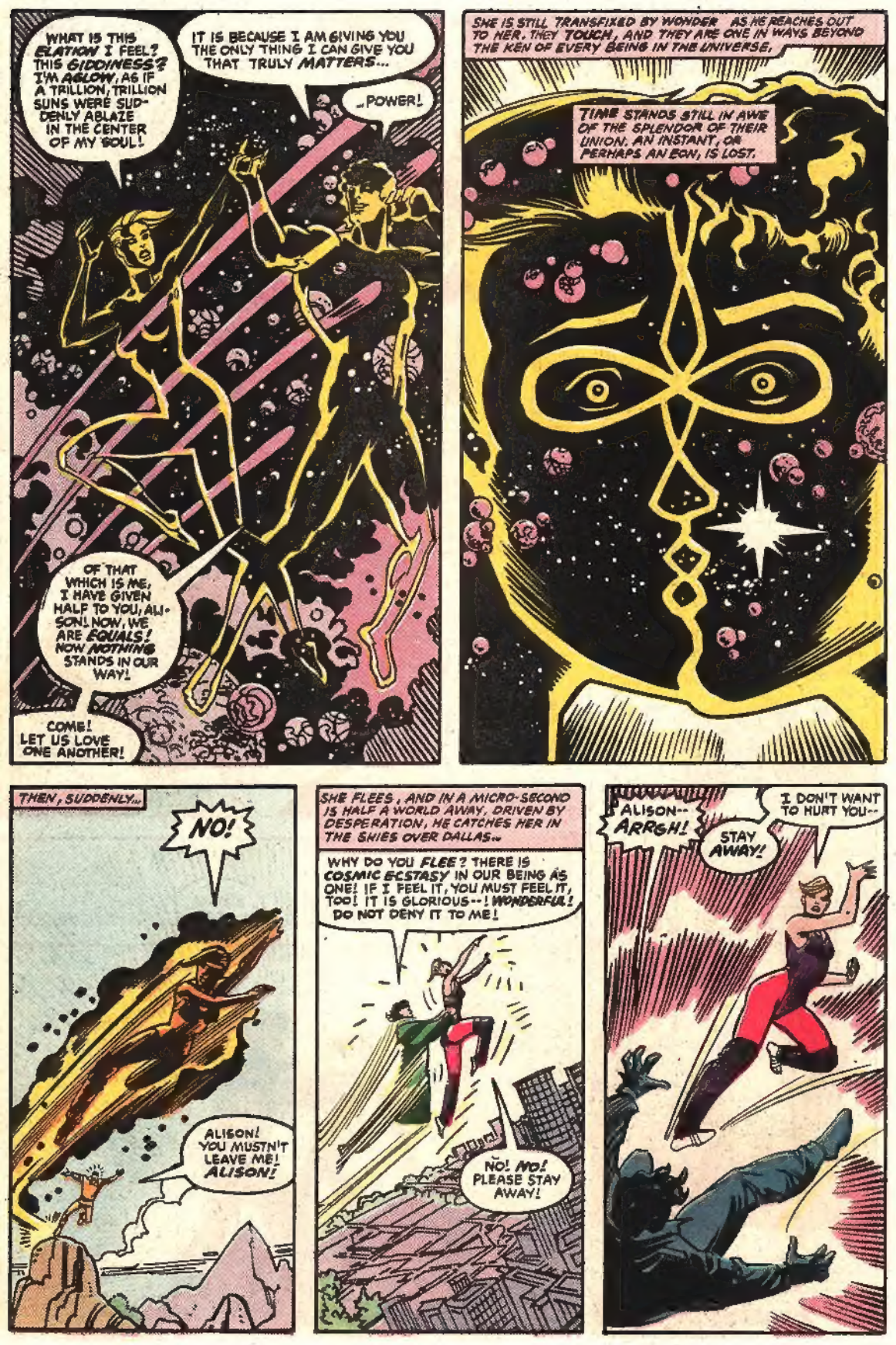
THANK YOU, ALISON! IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I--I THINK I CAN MANAGE TO HOLD THEM OFF LONG ENOUGH--

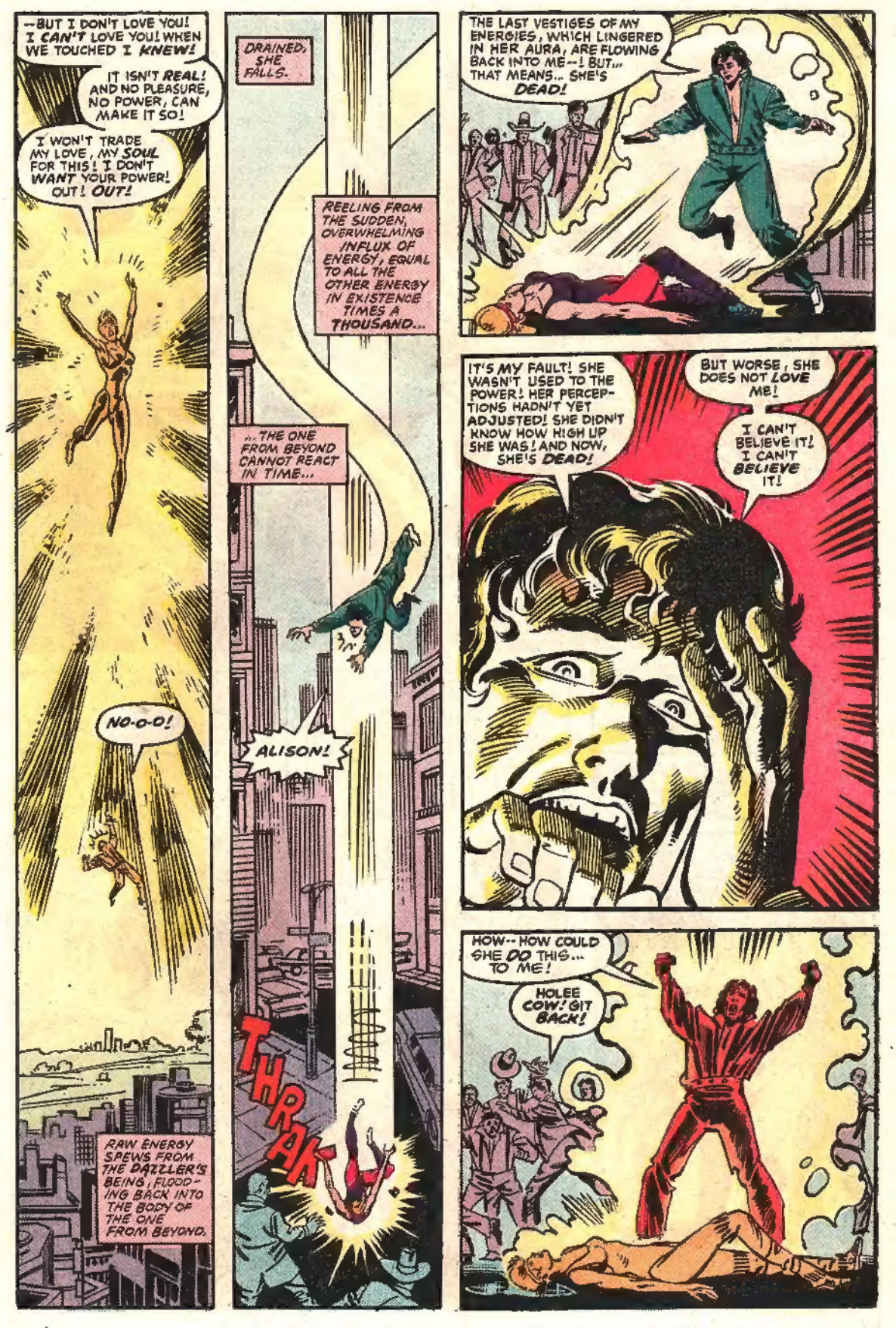

--FOR US TO ESCAPE!
THANK GOODNESS!
DAZZLER AND THE ONE FROM BEYOND VANISH IN A BURST OF LIGHT, TELEPORTING AWAY FROM THEIR ASSAILANTS--
--WHO PROMPTLY FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS!

AND, ON A NOW-FAMILIAR PEAK IN NEPAL...
WE MADE IT! THAT WAS CLOSE! THEY WERE GOING TO KILL YOU!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, ALISON! I'M VERY GRATEFUL!
HMM...
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT LIKE THE AVENGERS TO BE SO... BELLIGERENT! ESPECIALLY CAPTAIN AMERICA!


AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU COULD HAVE SPIRITED US AWAY EARLIER... IF THERE REALLY WAS ANY TRUE DANGER...
ALL RIGHT, I ADMIT IT! THEY WEREN'T THE REAL AVENGERS! I... FAKED IT! BUT YOU WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ME, WEREN'T YOU? YOU REALLY DO CARE FOR ME, DON'T YOU?
YES! YES, I DO! BUT, I'M JUST A TINY SPECK OF PROTOPLASM, REMEMBER? AND YOU-- YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE!
I CAN FIX THAT!


HEY! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FIXING IT!


WHAT IS THIS ELATION I FEEL? THIS GIDDINESS? I'M AGLOW, AS IF A TRILLION, TRILLION SUNS WERE SUDDENLY ABLAZE IN THE CENTER OF MY SOUL!
IT IS BECAUSE I AM GIVING YOU THE ONLY THING I CAN GIVE YOU THAT TRULY MATTERS...
...POWER!
OF THAT WHICH IS ME, I HAVE GIVEN HALF TO YOU, ALISON! NOW, WE ARE EQUALS! NOW NOTHING STANDS IN OUR WAY!
COME! LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER!
SHE IS STILL TRANSFIXED BY WONDER AS HE REACHES OUT TO HER. THEY TOUCH, AND THEY ARE ONE IN WAYS BEYOND THE KEN OF EVERY BEING IN THE UNIVERSE.
TIME STANDS STILL IN AWE OF THE SPLENDOR OF THEIR UNION. AN INSTANT, OR PERHAPS AN EON, IS LOST.
THEN, SUDDENLY...
NO!
ALISON! YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE ME! ALISON!
SHE FLEES, AND IN A MICRO-SECOND IS HALF A WORLD AWAY, DRIVEN BY DESPERATION, HE CATCHES HER IN THE SKIES OVER DALLAS...
WHY DO YOU FLEE? THERE IS COSMIC ECSTASY IN OUR BEING AS ONE! IF I FEEL IT, YOU MUST FEEL IT, TOO! IT IS GLORIOUS--! WONDERFUL! DO NOT DENY IT TO ME!
NO! NO! PLEASE STAY AWAY!
ALISON-- ARRGH!
STAY AWAY!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU--


--BUT I DON'T LOVE YOU! I CAN'T LOVE YOU! WHEN WE TOUCHED I KNEW!
IT ISN'T REAL! AND NO PLEASURE, NO POWER, CAN MAKE IT SO!
I WON'T TRADE MY LOVE, MY SOUL FOR THIS! I DON'T WANT YOUR POWER! OUT! OUT!
NO-O-O!
RAW ENERGY SPEWS FROM THE DAZZLER'S BEING, FLOODING BACK INTO THE BODY OF THE ONE FROM BEYOND.
DRAINED, SHE FALLS.
REELING FROM THE SUDDEN, OVERWHELMING INFLUX OF ENERGY, EQUAL TO ALL THE OTHER ENERGY IN EXISTENCE TIMES A THOUSAND...
...THE ONE FROM BEYOND CANNOT REACT IN TIME...
ALISON!
THRAK
THE LAST VESTIGES OF MY ENERGIES, WHICH LINGERED IN HER AURA, ARE FLOWING BACK INTO ME--! BUT... THAT MEANS... SHE'S DEAD!
IT'S MY FAULT! SHE WASN'T USED TO THE POWER! HER PERCEPTIONS HADN'T YET ADJUSTED! SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW HIGH UP SHE WAS! AND NOW, SHE'S DEAD!
BUT WORSE, SHE DOES NOT LOVE ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HOW--HOW COULD SHE DO THIS... TO ME!
HOLEE COW! GIT BACK!

HOW COULD SHE?
A BOLT OF PURE FORCE, BORN OF THE RAGE CHURNING IN THE HEART OF THE ONE FROM BEYOND, KNIFES UPWARDS, SLASHING THROUGH SPACE AND TIME.
INSTANTANEOUSLY, A BILLION PARSECS FROM EARTH, IT STRIKES A GALAXY--
--AND UTTERLY OBLITERATES IT!
MOMENTS LATER, EQUALLY AWESOME ENERGIES, MORE CALMLY WIELDED, PULL ALISON BLAIRE BACK FROM THE BRINK OF TRULY IRREVOCABLE DEATH AND REPAIR HER SHATTERED BODY...
HELLO, ALISON!
WOW! I-I'M ALL RIGHT NOW! BOY, WHAT I DID WAS REALLY STUPID! I GUESS I WAS BADLY BANGED UP, HUH?
YES, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO OPEN MY EYES AND SEE YOU! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS UNCONSCIOUS--
MINUTES...
IT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER--AND IT SOUNDS SILLY, BUT, I--MISSED YOU!
I LOVE YOU!
DO YOU?
TOTALLY! COMPLETELY! SINCERELY!
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TOLD ME YOUR NAME? WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
A TAXI?
GOOD ENOUGH, A TAXI! LET'S GET MARRIED? HUH? PLEASE!

I BET THEY HAVE SOME NICE WEDDING GOWNS RIGHT HERE IN THIS SHOPPING CENTER!
LET'S GO SEE!
GEE, IT'S KIND OF CROWDED IN HERE!
IT IS? I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU, LOVER!
ACTUALLY, I THINK WE'RE BEING MOBBED BECAUSE OF THE SPECTACLE WE MADE OF OURSELVES OUTSIDE!
WHATEVER! LET'S GET OURSELVES SOME BREATHING SPACE!
YOU'RE SO WONDERFUL! I'LL NEVER GET OVER IT!
ALISON... I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THIS! I--I'M MAKING YOU ACT THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING, YOU DON'T REALLY LOVE ME!
WHAT? DON'T BE SILLY, DARLING! I LOVE YOU MORE THAN...
NO! YOU DON'T! BUT I LOVE YOU--TOO MUCH TO ABUSE YOU THIS WAY! YOU WERE RIGHT--IT ISN'T ANY GOOD IF IT ISN'T REAL!
I RELEASE YOUR MIND, ALISON!
OH-H!
IN A MOMENT, YOU WILL FORGET ALL THAT HAPPENED! YOU WILL BELIEVE THAT WE SIMPLY HAD A GRAND ADVENTURE TOGETHER... AN ADVENTURE THAT HAS ENDED!
AND THEN... I SHALL RETURN YOU WHENCE I FOUND YOU... AND IT WILL BE MY TURN TO TRY TO FORGET.

NEXT

The story continues in *Dazzler* #40, as Alison Blaire discovers that her involvement with the One from Beyond is far from over in an action-packed thriller!

There are major ramifications from the Beyonder's encounter with Alpha Flight which are explored in *Alpha Flight* #28! You'll have to see the startling consequences of the Beyonder's rescue of Talisman to believe them!

In *ROM* #72, big changes take place, thanks to the One from Beyond! Brandy Clark, Cindy Adams, and Rick Jones will never be the same again!

And, in *Avengers* #261, the *real* Avengers tangle with the Beyonder! It's a battle royale!

One month from now, the threads of our epic saga are gathered again in *Secret Wars II* #5, featuring the X-Men, the *New Mutants*, the *Avengers* and more! Be sure to be here for . . .

"DESPAIR"